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1 of 3

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. P1397US00 (98-0865)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Kim C. Smith

Serial No.: 09/421,580

Art Unit: 2174

Filed: October 20, 1999

Examiner: Mylinh T. Tran

For: *SIMULATED THREE-DIMENSIONAL NAVIGATIONAL MENU SYSTEM*

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Commissioner for Patents
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APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the Final Office Action dated May 6, 2003, finally rejecting claims 1-76.

(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Gateway, Inc.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is not aware of any related appeals or interferences.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims allowed: none

Claims objected to: none

Claims rejected: Claims 1-76.

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(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS AFTER FINAL

There have been no amendments proffered after the Final Office Action of May 6, 2003.

(5) SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Applicant's invention provides a more informative and useful method of identifying selectable options in a user interface. A user interface, system, method and software for displaying a simulated three-dimensional display of menu options to a user, thereby maximizing use of a display's real estate by presenting all available options 315 at once while at the same time presenting certain options in a more pronounced manner (e.g., FIGS. 9A and 9B). The system monitors for running applications, polls the running applications for any available options, and displays the options in the simulated three-dimensional format. (page 42, lines 7-11, of the specification)

The present invention provides a three-dimensional menu system that continuously presents all available options to a user. The options, or hotspots, in the menu are continuously selectable (e.g., page 19, lines 4-10). The items are easily accessed and discerned when in the foreground of the three-dimensional display and more difficult to discern and pinpoint in the background of the three-dimensional display. All available options 315 are displayed to a user without requiring any user interaction. In addition, the amount of time a user must wait to select an option is reduced. Minimizing wait time is facilitated by configuring all of the displayed targets to be selectable at all times, i.e., whether in the foreground or in the background. (page 27, lines 12-20)

(6) ISSUES

I. Whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 1, 5, 6, 10-12, 14, 18, 19, 23-25, 27, 31, 32, 36-38, 40, 44, 45, 49-51, and 53-76 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015?

II. Whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 2-4, 7-9, 13, 15-17, 20-22, 26, 28-30, 33-35, 39, 41-43, 46-48, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015, in view of Matthews, III, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,724,492?

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For each ground of rejection that appellant contests herein which applies to more than one claim, such additional claims, to the extent separately identified and argued below, do not stand and fall together.

The Claims are at least as distinguishable as grouped below:

Group I: Claims 1, 6, 10-12, 14, 19, 23-25, 27, 32, 36-38, 40, 45, 49-51, 54-56, 60-62, 66-68, and 72-74.

Group II: Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44.

Group III: Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71.

Group IV: Claims 57, 63, 69, and 75.

Group V: Claims 58, 64, 70, and 76.

Group VI: Claims 2, 3, 13, 15, 16, 26, 28, 29, 39, 41, 42, and 52.

Group VII: Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43.

Group VIII: Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46.

Group IX: Claims 8, 9, 21, 22, 34, 35, 47, and 48.

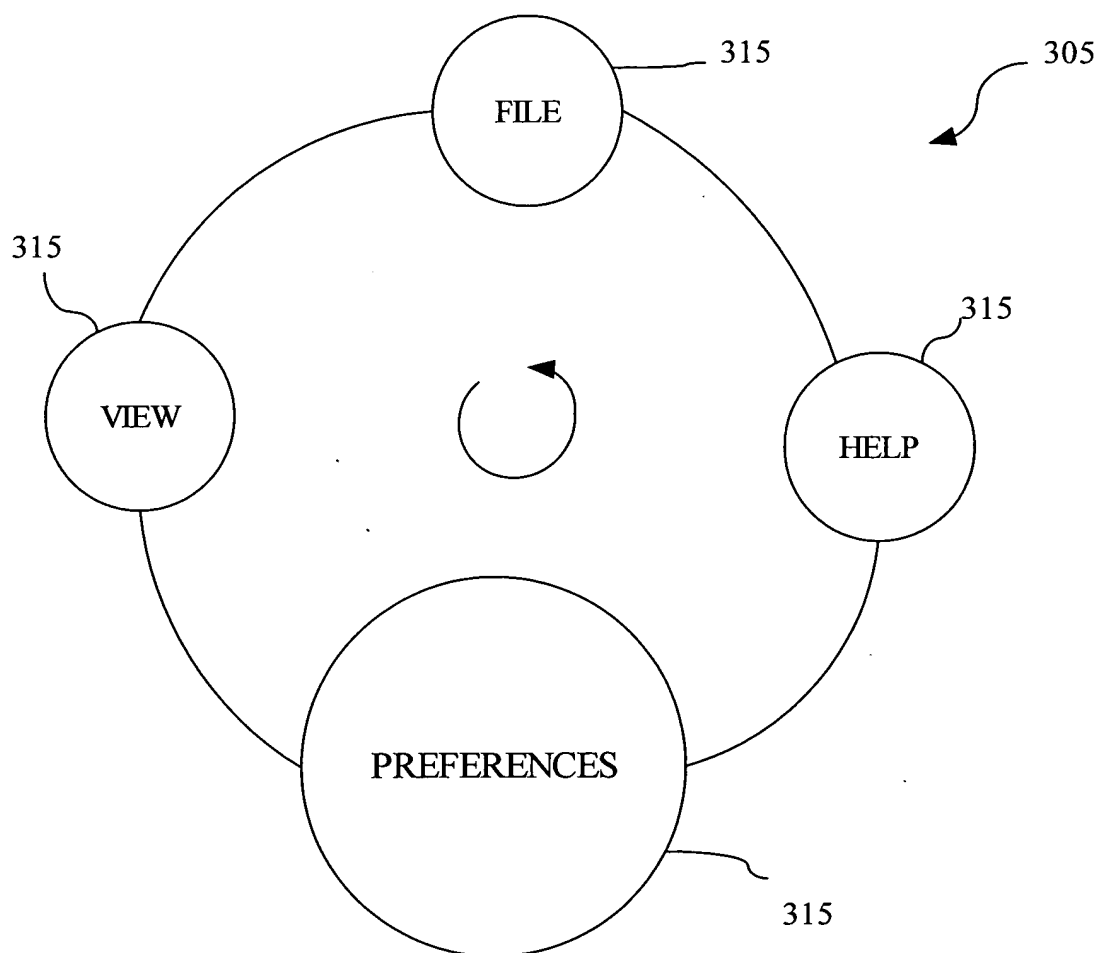
(8) ARGUMENT

The present invention maximizes use of a display's real estate by presenting all available options at once while at the same time presenting certain options in a more pronounced manner. All claims recite at least two targets 315. The at least two targets are capable of simulated rotation about an axis. The two targets are continuously selectable during the simulated rotation (e.g., FIGS. 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B). All of the at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of the display are capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of all

of the at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of the display remains continuously selectable during the simulated rotation

Neither Goh nor Matthews disclose or suggest these limitations. Goh discloses a rotatable cube in which all six faces may be made translucent, but does not disclose that all selectable targets are continuously selectable during a simulated rotation. Matthews shows a single object that has multiple panels that may be selected. The single object of Matthews tumbles in animation. Matthews does not disclose or suggest two targets that are continuously selectable during a simulated rotation about an axis.

Inventive features of the present invention may be found illustrated in various drawing figures (e.g., FIGS. 4, 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B). An exemplary implementation from (the upper, right hand portion of) FIG. 4 is shown below:



PORTION OF FIG. 4

Preliminary Comments

Originally, Claims 1-52 were presented in the application for patent. The Patent Office rejected all 52 claims as being unpatentable over Matthews in view of Yeh in the Office Action mailed April 30, 2002. Applicant responded with arguments and without amendment to the claims. In the response, the inappropriateness of Yeh was discussed. The Patent Office rejected all unamended 52 claims again using the same prior art references in the same way in a Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2002; this time with a

response to arguments section. Applicant highlighted the failures in the teachings of the cited prior art (especially, in the inappropriateness of Yeh) in a response after final; there was no amendment of the claims. The Patent Office again refused to allow the unamended claims in an Advisory Action mailed October 24, 2002.

Applicant filed a first appeal brief on October 28, 2002, in which the arguments presented in earlier responses were again presented.

Only when faced with an Appeal Brief did the Patent Office truly respond to Applicant's arguments and change the prior art cited to reject the claims. The Patent Office responded by reopening prosecution in which a new reference (Goh) was added and a clearly inappropriate reference (Yeh) was dropped.

The Patent Office is reminded that prior art rejections should ordinarily be confined strictly to the best available art. MPEP 702.02

If the prior art rejection based upon Matthews and Yeh were deficient (as admittedly it was), the Patent Office should have admitted such, especially in view of Applicant's pointing out the inappropriateness of Yeh, after the response to the Office Action mailed April 30, 2002, or after the response to Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2002, instead of maintaining the same position taken in the first Office Action. Prosecution has been unnecessarily prolonged because of the Patent Office's refusal to seriously consider Applicant's arguments before the first appeal brief.

In response to the first Appeal Brief, the Patent Office reopened prosecution with a non-final Office Action mailed January 2, 2003 in which Claims 1-52 were rejected as anticipated by Goh or as unpatentable over Goh in view of Matthews.

Applicant responded by amending Claims 1, 14, 27, and 40, and adding new claims 53-76. The deficiencies of Goh and Goh in view of Matthews in view of the current claims were pointed out in the response.

The Patent Office again repeated the rejections of Claims 1-52 and applied these same rejections to Claims 53-76 in a Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003. There were minor changes in the text of the rejections from that of the Office Action mailed January 2, 2003, but the grouping of the claims remained the same.

As will be discussed, it is believed that the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious any of Claims 1-76. Applicant notes that not once during prosecution has the Patent Office indicated any allowable subject matter and that the Patent Office essentially maintained the same rejections in the Final Office Actions as had been presented earlier in the immediately prior non-final Office Actions. From the record, it appears that the Patent Office intends to deny Applicant a patent for his invention. Applicant also wonders if the Patent Office seriously considers the furtherance of prosecution only either when the application is first examined or when faced with the arguments of an appeal brief.

ISSUE I

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 1, 5, 6, 10-12, 14, 18, 19, 23-25, 27, 31, 32, 36-38, 40, 44, 45, 49-51, and 53-76 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015.

It is not understood why Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) when intervening Claims 3, 16, 29, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The reference must teach every element of the claim for anticipation (unless the element is inherent). MPEP § 2131.

Applicant's invention provides a more informative and useful method of identifying selectable options in a user interface.

Claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 recite “at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display” and “all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.”

GROUP I

Applicant recites that each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation. The present invention, as claimed, reduces wait time and facilitates use because the options are always selectable.

Goh discloses a rotatable six sided cube, each face of the cube being able to display a window (col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 3, lines 61-64). The faces are translucent so that all six faces are visible to a user simultaneously (col. 4, lines 31-35). In effect, as shown in Figures 4-6, overlapping images of the faces are presented to the viewer. Goh is not clear on how selection of a window or icon is performed, but discloses that a window (corresponding to a face) is selectable by a user (col. 5, lines 40-41). Goh discloses that the rotation pattern is such that each face of the cube is displayed as normal to the user's line of sight once during each rotation cycle (col. 5, 42-48), suggesting that there is more than one axis of rotation. When a window is selected by the user, it becomes opaque. The user may select, add, delete, or launch icons (col. 6, lines 2-5).

The Final Office Action (page 6, lines 8-12) mailed May 6, 2003, asserted “Applicant has argued that Goh does not disclose ‘how a window is selected in the case where overlapping windows are shown.’ However, the Examiner does not agree because even though the user must rotate a target such that it is the top image layer and then select, the system of Goh (figure 5) still shows at least two selectable targets (104), (106) for the user to select from at the same time.” However, the claims recite “all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of

being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis” and “each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.” The windows 104 and 106 in Goh do not represent all targets.

As Goh does not disclose how a window (or face) is selected in the case where overlapping windows (or faces) are shown, it is not known how this is accomplished. Presumably, the user must rotate a face such that it is the top image layer and then select it. Thus, the targets (whether a window or an icon of the window) in Goh do not all remain continuously selectable during said simulated rotation. That is, during a portion of the time of the simulated rotation, the target is not selectable by the user.

Thus, Goh does not anticipate Claims 1, 5, 6, 10-12, 14, 18-19, 23-25, 27, 31-32, 36-38, 40, 44-45, 49-51, or 53-76.

GROUP II

Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44 recite “said interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.” Group II is patentably distinguishable from Group I because of this limitation. Modifying targets serves to aid users in an image intense environment.

Goh discloses a user can interact with a computer system by manipulating graphical objects on the display screen using the keyboard and/or the mouse (col. 3, lines 48-50). Goh further discloses windows that can be manipulated independently of that portion of the display screen outside the frame (col. 3, lines 55-57). Goh yet further discloses a window may contain icons which are graphical display objects representing commands, applications, and the like (col. 3, lines 60-62).

Referring to the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, Goh discusses the prior art in column 1 and does not disclose the claimed limitation. Goh (col. 2, lines 22-25)

discloses viewing different icons by viewing different windows; however, the viewing of different icons does not result in modifying targets in response to another portion of the display because the icons are in the same portion of the display as the window. Opening an icon (col. 6, lines 6-11) in Goh does not result in modifying targets in response to another portion of the display. If multiple icons are displayed and one icon is selected, the other icons remain, as before, unselected and so are not modified.

Goh does not disclose an interface that is “capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.”

Thus, Claims 5, 18, 31, and 44 are allowable over Goh for this additional reason.

GROUP III

Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71 recite “said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.” Group III is patentably distinguishable from Groups I and II because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted that this limitation is disclosed in Figure 5 of Goh.

However, Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71 are merely presented in shorthand. For example, Claim 53 not only includes the limitation that “said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis,” but also includes “each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation” (from base claim 1).

Goh does not disclose or suggest that each one of all the at least two selectable targets remains continuously selectable during a simulated rotation corresponding to a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about the axis.

Thus, Claims 53, 59, 65, and 71 are not anticipated by Goh and are allowable for this additional reason.

GROUP IV

Claims 57, 63, 69, and 75 recite "said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display." Group IV is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-III because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted that this limitation is disclosed in Figure 5 of Goh.

Goh asserts (col. 5, lines 41-46) "the cube can rotate in any one of at least three modes: (1) the cube may rotate constantly, (2) the cube may rotate under the user's control, or (3) both. The cube has a default rotation pattern such that each face of the cube is displayed as normal to the user's line of sight once during each rotation cycle;" however, no axis orientation is clearly shown as lying within a plane of the screen of the display in Figure 5 or described as such in the text.

Thus, Claims 57, 63, 69, and 75 are not anticipated by Goh and are allowable for this additional reason.

GROUP V

Claims 58, 64, 70, and 76 recite "said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display." Group V is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-IV because of this limitation.

The Patent Office asserted that this limitation is disclosed in Figure 5 of Goh.

Goh asserts (col. 5, lines 41-46) "the cube can rotate in any one of at least three modes: (1) the cube may rotate constantly, (2) the cube may rotate under the user's control, or (3) both. The cube has a default rotation pattern such that each face of the cube is displayed as normal to the user's line of sight once during each rotation cycle;"

however, no axis orientation is clearly shown as substantially normal to the plane of the screen of the display in Figure 5 or described as such in the text.

Thus, Claims 58, 64, 70, and 76 are not anticipated by Goh and are allowable for this additional reason.

ISSUE II

The issue is whether the Patent Office properly rejected Claims 2-4, 7-9, 13, 15-17, 20-22, 26, 28-30, 33-35, 39, 41-43, 46-48, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goh, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,015, in view of Matthews, III, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,724,492.

GROUP VI

The examiner is kindly reminded that in order to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP § 2142.

All pending claims recite “at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display” and “all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.”

Goh discloses a three dimensional cube having faces in which each face may contain a plurality of icons corresponding to an application. Goh discloses each icon typically represents a command (col. 4, lines 14-25) and is concerned with viewing all icons simultaneously. Each icon in Goh is shown as a simple symbolic feature. There is no disclosure in Goh that the icon has more than one function. The two views of an icon correspond to a frontal view and a backward view looking through the cube.

Matthews teaches a single icon having a plurality of faces for providing functions to an operator using a device having a small display or work area. Matthews teaches a single three dimensional object which tumbles and rotates about an axis (col. 15, lines 15-35). Matthews states "FIG. 6 provides a series of images that illustrate an exemplary open transition, which occurs when the channel manager is activated" (col. 15, lines 15-18). Matthews states "FIG. 11 illustrates a sequence of images that form a part of an exemplary open transition, which occurs when the three-dimensional menu is activated. Generally described, the open transition depicts a three-dimensional menu rotating about its vertical axis as it moves from infinity to its final position on the display" (col. 18, lines 19-24). Matthews states, regarding FIG. 12, "In the preferred hand held computer, three-dimensional animation is used to depict a multi-sided object 1200 rotating from along its vertical axis to reveal another panel" (col. 18, lines 37-40).

Goh discloses a satisfactory solution to a problem to allow a user to see all icons simultaneously (col. 2, lines 26-51). Each icon is associated with a function. Thus, Goh presents an interface in which all available functions are always visible (but not selectable) to a user. Contrary to the argument of the Final Office Action (page 7, lines 3-8) mailed May 6, 2003, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Matthews to modify the interface of Goh because Matthews is directed to a single icon that contains all functions, some of which are hidden at any given time. It would be contrary to the spirit of the invention of Goh to be modified by Matthews because Goh seeks to always present all functions visibly to a user and Matthews always keeps hidden at least some of the available functions.

Thus the combination of Goh and Matthews is inappropriate and Goh is not modifiable by Matthews.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 2-4, 7-9, 13, 15-17, 20-22, 26, 28-30, 33-35, 39, 41-43, 46-48, and 52 are allowable over the prior art of record.

GROUP VII

Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 recite "said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary." Group VII is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-VI because of this limitation. Displaying additional information when the cursor is positioned within the specific target's hotspot boundary serves to aid users in an image intense environment.

Claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 recite "additional information" to be shown when the "cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary."

Matthews (col. 13, lines 3-23) does not teach the display of "additional information" when the "cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary." Matthews (col. 13, lines 2-10), as noted in the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, indicates a data object as a string of text that does not represent additional information, is not associated with a specific target, and does not show a cursor (only a stylus 165). Data object 205 is not a target capable of a simulated rotation about an axis. Instead, Matthews displays text (figs. 7 and 10) regardless of whether the cursor is within any boundary area.

The text of Matthews (col. 14, lines 17-25) cited by the Patent Office discloses a program panel that contains secondary information. The cited text of Matthews does not disclose or suggest "said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is

positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary" where each target remains continuously selectable during a simulated rotation.

Thus, claims 4, 17, 30, and 43 are allowable over the prior art of record not only because they depend from allowable independent claims, but also on their own merit.

GROUP VIII

Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46 recite "said interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary." Group VIII is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-VII because of this limitation. Providing focus serves to aid users in an image intense environment.

Goh discloses icons on windows. Neither the icons nor the windows of Goh are disclosed as having hotspot boundaries nor that an interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

Goh does not disclose or suggest that there is a problem because the icons and windows do not have hotspot boundaries and are not provided focus.

Thus, there is no suggestion or disclosure of a need to modify Goh to provide focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary. One of ordinary skill would not look to Matthews to modify Goh with a feature Goh does not express or suggest a need.

Regarding the comments of page 8, lines 1-9, of the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, Matthews teaches a stylus (col. 13, lines 15-25), not a cursor.

Therefore, Claims 7, 20, 33, and 46 are allowable because they depend from allowable base claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 and for this additional reason.

GROUP IX

Claims 8, 21, 34, and 47 recite "said cursor is capable of modifying its presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor." Claims 9, 22, 35, and 48 further recite that the cursor take on "a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target." Group IX is patentably distinguishable from Groups I-VIII because of these limitations.

Goh discloses icons and windows (col. 3, lines 47-60), but does not disclose or suggest that the cursor assumes the shape of a specific target. Referring to the Final Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, Goh discloses resizing a window (col. 3, line 65, through col. 4, line 12), but does not disclose or suggest that the cursor assumes the shape of a specific target. Goh does not express or suggest a need for such modification.

Matthews (col. 1, lines 20-67) discloses icons and pull down menus but does not disclose or suggest a cursor which is "capable of modifying its presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor" or a miniature version.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 9, 21, 22, 34, 35, 47, and 48 are allowable over the prior art of record because they depend from allowable base claims and for this additional reason.

As to Groups VI to IX, there is no suggestion or motivation in Goh or Matthews to modify Goh or Matthews or to combine Goh with Matthews. Neither Goh nor Matthews teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the independent claims. Additionally, Goh and Matthews do not teach or suggest limitations found in certain dependent claims as discussed above. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. Thus, according to MPEP § 2142, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-76 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reversal of all outstanding rejections is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

GATEWAY, INC.,

Dated: July 15, 2003

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(9) CLAIMS

1. A user interface comprising:
 - a display;
 - a cursor capable of being displayed on said display;
 - a cursor control device capable of controlling said cursor's position and movement on said display;
 - at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display; and
 - all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.
2. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said interface is capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.
3. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said targets are associated with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via said cursor and said cursor control device.
4. The user interface, as defined in claim 3, wherein said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.
5. The user interface, as defined in claim 3, wherein said interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

6. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said interface is capable of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

7. The user interface, as defined in claim 6, wherein said interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

8. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said cursor is capable of modifying its presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

9. The user interface, as defined in claim 8, wherein the modification in the presentation of said cursor further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

10. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said targets are displayed as an animated sequence of movement.

11. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as a polygonal shaped target.

12. The user interface, as defined in claim 11, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sides.

13. The user interface, as defined in claim 1, wherein said targets are capable of remaining visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

14. A system comprising:
at least one processor;
memory operably associated with said processor; and

a user interface, said user interface comprising
a display;
a cursor capable of being displayed on said display;
a cursor control device capable of controlling said cursor's position and movement on said display;

at least two selectable targets displayed on at least a portion of said display; and
all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

15. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said interface is capable of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

16. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein each of said targets are associated with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via said cursor and said cursor control device.

17. The system, as defined in claim 16, wherein said interface is capable of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of said display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

18. The system, as defined in claim 16, wherein said interface is capable of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

19. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said interface is capable of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

20. The system, as defined in claim 19, wherein said interface is capable of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

21. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said cursor is capable of modifying its presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

22. The system, as defined in claim 21, wherein the modification in the presentation of said cursor further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

23. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said targets are displayed as an animated sequence of movement.

24. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as polygonal shaped target.

25. The system, as defined in claim 24, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sides.

26. The system, as defined in claim 14, wherein said targets are capable of remaining visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

27. A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions capable of implementing the following steps:

displaying at least two selectable targets on at least a portion of a display, all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

28. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

29. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of associating each of said targets with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via a cursor and a cursor control device.

30. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 29, being capable of further implementing the step of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of the display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

31. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 29, being capable of further implementing the step of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

32. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

33. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 32, being capable of further implementing the step of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

34. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 33, being capable of further implementing the step of modifying said cursor's presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

35. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 34, being capable of further implementing the step of modification such that said cursor's presentation further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

36. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of displaying said targets as an animated sequence of movement.

37. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as a polygonal shaped target.

38. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 37, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sites.

39. The computer readable medium, as defined in claim 27, being capable of further implementing the step of keeping said targets visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

40. A method comprising the following steps:

displaying at least two selectable targets on at least a portion of a display, all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display capable of being simultaneously displayed in a simulated rotation about an axis while each one of said all of said at least two selectable targets displayed on said at least a portion of said display remains continuously selectable during said simulated rotation.

41. The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of varying the displayed size of said targets during said simulated rotation about said axis.

42. The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of associating each of said targets with a corresponding function capable of being performed in response to selection of said targets by a user via a cursor and a cursor control device.

43. The method, as defined in claim 42, further implementing the step of displaying additional information, on at least a portion of the display, associated with a specific target when said cursor is positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

44. The method, as defined in claim 42, further implementing the step of modifying said targets being displayed on said display in response to a change in focus on content being displayed in another portion of said display.

45. The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of displaying said simulated rotation of said targets about said axis in a simulated three-dimensional presentation.

46. The method, as defined in claim 45, further implementing the step of providing focus to a specific target in response to said cursor being positioned at least partially within said specific target's hotspot boundary.

47. The method, as defined in claim 46, further implementing the step of modifying said cursor's presentation into a shape similar to the shape of a specific target which is being given focus by said cursor.

48. The method, as defined in claim 47, further implementing the step of modification such that said cursor's presentation further comprises changing the shape of said cursor into a shape similar to a miniature version of the shape of said specific target.

49. The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of displaying said targets as an animated sequence of movement.

50. The method, as defined in claim 40, wherein each of said at least two selectable targets is presented as a polygonal shaped target.

51. The method, as defined in claim 50, wherein said polygonal shaped target is capable of displaying content on each of its user-visible sides.

52. The method, as defined in claim 40, further implementing the step of keeping said targets visible as said targets travel in a simulated rotation about said axis.

53. The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

54. The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

55. The user interface of Claim 1, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

56. The user interface of Claim 55, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

57. The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

58. The user interface of Claim 1, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.

59. The system of Claim 14, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

60. The system of Claim 14, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

61. The system of Claim 14, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

62. The system of Claim 61, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

63. The system of Claim 14, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

64. The system of Claim 14, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.

65. The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

66. The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

67. The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

68. The computer readable medium of Claim 67, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

69. The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

70. The computer readable medium of Claim 27, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.

71. The method of Claim 40, wherein said simulated rotation is a 360 degree revolution in a substantially circular orbit about said axis.

72. The method of Claim 40, wherein said all of said at least two selectable targets are located at different points along a common orbit about said axis during said simulated rotation.

73. The method of Claim 40, wherein two or more of said at least two selectable targets are located in different orbits about said axis during said simulated rotation.

74. The method of Claim 73, wherein said different orbits are located in parallel planes.

75. The method of Claim 40, wherein said axis substantially lies within a plane of a screen of said display.

76. The method of Claim 40, wherein said axis is substantially normal to a plane of a screen of said display.